



August 30, 2004

Providence man is sentenced to 19 & ½ years for trafficking in crack cocaine

A federal judge has sentenced **Antron Russell**, of Providence, to 235 months in federal prison for trafficking in crack cocaine. Cranston Police detectives arrested Russell in March 2003 and confiscated approximately 141 grams of crack cocaine from him. As the police attempted to arrest him, Russell tried to flee in a car and struck three officers with the car.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on August 27 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Russell's prior convictions, which include firearms and narcotics offenses, placed him at the highest criminal history category under federal sentencing guidelines, a factor that lengthened his sentence.

Russell, 23, of 60 Comstock Avenue, pleaded guilty in February to possessing with intent to distribute cocaine base, also known as crack. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that the government had proof that, on March 8, 2003, Cranston Police staked out the parking lot of a fast food restaurant on Cranston Street, acting on information that a crack cocaine transaction would take place there. Officers observed a car with a male passenger who fit a description given them of the alleged dealer, known to them only as "Ant."

Officers approached the vehicle and removed the driver, whereupon the passenger, later identified as Russell, reached over and attempted to flee in the car. Russell struck three officers

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with the car and police opened fire on the vehicle until it stopped. Police arrested Russell and confiscated two bags containing 141.24 grams of crack cocaine.

Prior to the Cranston police investigation, an undercover DEA agent had bought crack cocaine from Russell on three occasions in November and December 2002 and in January 2003.

Cranston Police and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Madden prosecuted it.

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